

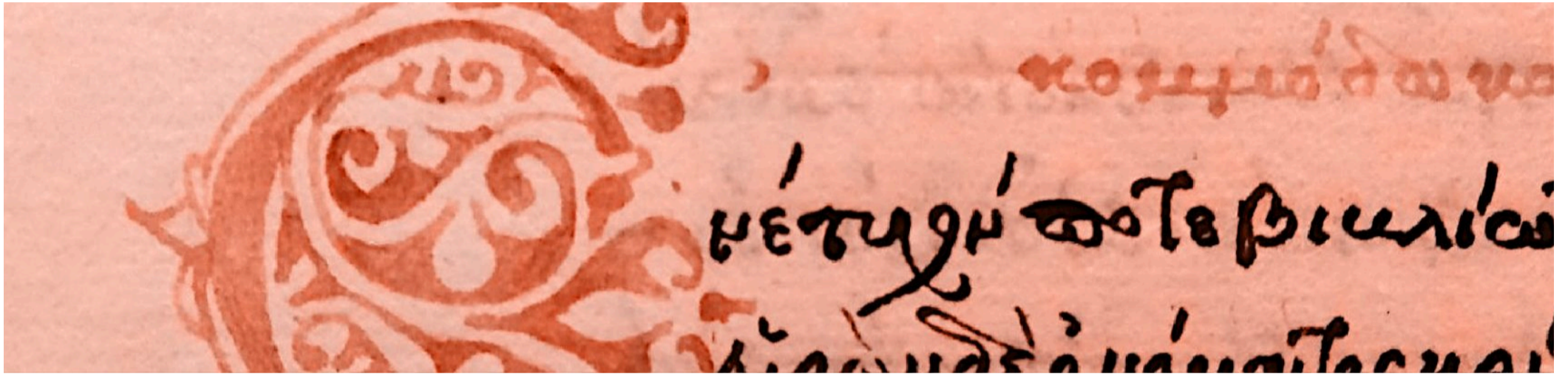


# Digital Encyclopedia of Atticism



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

*PURA. Purism In Antiquity: Theories Of Language in Greek Atticist Lexica and their Legacy*



Lexicographic Entries



Scholars & works



Transmission: Manuscripts & Editions



Search



## About DEA

# About us

The **Digital Encyclopedia of Atticism** is one of the research outputs of **PURA**, a five-year ERC Consolidator project (grant agreement no. 865817), which began in January 2021 at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. PURA investigates the theories of **linguistic purism** that were developed in ancient Greek culture, and the way in which they were received in later periods. The focus of our analysis is **Atticist lexica**, ancient 'dictionaries' that collect linguistic features to be cultivated or avoided in correct Greek.

DEA contributes to the three main objectives of PURA:

1. to provide a comprehensive mapping of **Atticist purism** by analyzing the linguistic theories of Atticist lexica;
2. to study the intellectual and cultural **legacy** of Atticism in antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the early modern age by charting the history both of the lexica as **books** and of their authors;
3. to make the theories of these specialist and intricate texts more approachable and **accessible** outside the traditional format of critical editions.

To fulfil these objectives, the three sections of DEA, all of which are **open-access**, collect our work on the lexicographic entries in the Atticist lexica and their linguistic history; the major scholars and works of the ancient and Byzantine Atticist debate; and the transmission of the lexica in the medieval and early modern periods. Visit [About DEA](#) for more information.

## How to cite this resource

O. Tribulato (ed.), *Digital Encyclopedia of Atticism*. With the assistance of E. N. Merisio. Venice, Edizioni Ca' Foscari, 2022-. e-ISSN 2974-8240.

## Contacts

For information about DEA, please email [dea\\_editor@unive.it](mailto:dea_editor@unive.it). For information about the PURA project, please contact the Principal Investigator: Prof. Olga Tribulato, Dipartimento di Studi Umanistici, Università Ca' Foscari

Venezia, Dorsoduro 3484/D, 30123 Venezia, Italia. [olga.tribulato@unive.it](mailto:olga.tribulato@unive.it).



Università  
Ca'Foscari  
Venezia

[ve]dph

Venice Centre for  
Digital and Public  
Humanities



Edizioni  
Ca'Foscari

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 865817)

© 2024 PURA - Digital Encyclopedia of Atticism - This work is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Hosting by GARR Cloud



PURA. *Purism In Antiquity: Theories Of Language in Greek Atticist Lexica and their Legacy*

## Lexicographic entries

[← Back to index](#)

### ὄπωροπώλης, ὄπωρώνης

(Phryn. *Ecl.* 176, Poll. 6.128)

#### A. Main sources

(1) Phryn. *Ecl.* 176: ὄπωροπώλης· τοῦθ' οἱ ἀγοραῖοι λέγουσιν, οἱ δὲ πεπαιδευμένοι ὄπωρώνης ὡς καὶ Δημοσθένης.

ὄπωροπώλης: Unsophisticated people use this [form], while educated people [say] ὄπωρώνης, like Demosthenes also [does] (18.262 = [C.1](#)).

(2) Poll. 6.128: βίοι ἐφ' οἷς ἄν τις ὄνειδισθεῖη [...] ὄπωρώνης ὄπωροπώλης.

Manner of livings (i.e. professions) for which one could be made fun of [...] ὄπωρώνης and ὄπωροπώλης.

(3) Thom.Mag. 258.9–10: ὄπωρῶν ὠνήτωρ οἱ ἀγοραῖοι· σὺ δὲ ὄπωρώνης λέγε, ὡς καὶ βοώνης καὶ ὀψώνης.

Unsophisticated people [say] ὄπωρῶν ὠνήτωρ ('purchaser of fruit'), but you should use ὄπωρώνης, like βοώνης and ὀψώνης.

#### B. Other erudite sources

(1) [Hdn.] *Epim.* 211.9–12: τὰ διὰ τοῦ -ονης ἅπαντα, εἰ μὲν καθαριεῦει τὸ ο, μικρογραφοῦνται· οἷον· γυρόνης· Μηριόνης· Κεβριόνης· καὶ τὰ ὅμοια. εἰ δὲ μὴ καθαριεῦει, διὰ τοῦ μεγάλου· οἷον· τελώνης· σιτώνης· βελώνης· ὄπωρώνης· καὶ τὰ ὅμοια.

All words ending in -ονης, if *omicron* is pure (i.e. follows *epsilon*, *iota*, *rho*), have a short vowel, like γυρόνης, Μηριόνης, Κεβριόνης, and the like. If *omicron* is not pure, [they have the suffix] with the long vowel, like τελώνης, σιτώνης, βελώνης, ὄπωρώνης, and the like.

(2) Phot. ο 425: ὄπωρώνας· ὠνητὰς ὄπώρας.

ὄπωρώνας: Purchasers of fruit.

(3) *Su.* ο 484: ὄπωρώνης· ὁ τὰς ὄπώρας πωλῶν καὶ ἀγοράζων. [...].

ὄπωρώνης: One who sells and purchases fruit. [...].

(4) *Hsch.* ο 1083: ὄπωρώνας· τοὺς εἰς πράσιν ὠνουμένους.

ὄπωρώνας: Those who buy for sale.

### C. *Loci classici*, other relevant texts

(1) *D.* 18.262: σῦκα καὶ βότρυς καὶ ἐλάας συλλέγων ὡσπερ ὄπωρώνης ἐκ τῶν ἀλλοτρίων χωρίων.

Picking up figs and grapes and olives, like a fruit-seller from other people's orchards.

(2) *P.Lond.* 7.2002.24 (= [TM 970](#)) [Philadelphia, post 249 BCE]: Ἀμμωνίω \ὄπωροπώληι/ δάνειον ἀργυρί(ου) (δραχμάς) κ'.

To Ammonius the fruit-seller a loan of money of twenty drachmas.

(3) *Aristaenet.* 2.1: δίδου τοῖς σοῖς ὄπωρώναις τὴν ὥραν τρυγᾶν.

Give your fruit-seller the time to reap the fruits.

(4) *P.Lond.* 5.1794.4–8 (= [TM 19767](#)) [Hermoupolis, 488 CE]: Αὐρήλιοι Ἰσίδωρος Ἀσκληπιάδο(υ) μ(ητρὸς) Θεέκλας | καὶ Δωρόθεος Φοιβάμμω[ν]ος μ(ητρὸς) Θεέκλας ἀμφοῖτεροι ὄπωρωνη (*lege* ὄπωρώναι) ἀπὸ τῆς Ἑρμο(υ)πολιτῶν ἀλλήλοισ | χ(αί)[ρ](ειν). ὁμολογοῦμεν ἐτοίμως ἔχε[ι]ν κοινωνεῖν ἀλλήλοισ | ἐ[ι]ς τὴν προειρημένην τεχνὴν ὄπωρωνη (*lege* ὄπωρωνῶν).

The Aurelii Isidorus, son of Asclepiades and Theclas, and Dorotheus, son of Phoebammon and Theclas, both fruit-sellers from the city of Hermoupolis, greet each other. We agree to be willing to do a partnership with one another for the abovementioned craft of the fruit-sellers.

### D. General commentary

Phrynichus ([A.1](#)) opposes ὄπωροπώλης – which he says was used by οἱ ἀγοραῖοι – to ὄπωρώνης, a form attested in Demosthenes, which Phrynichus says was used by οἱ πεπαιδευμένοι. Unlike Phrynichus, Pollux ([A.2](#)) puts ὄπωροπώλης and ὄπωρώνης on an equal footing, listing these forms among words for professions that can be used derogatively. Finally, Thomas Magister's gloss ([A.3](#)) is a little puzzling: although he evidently depends on Phrynichus' gloss, he substitutes ὄπωροπώλης with the periphrasis ὄπωρων ὠνήτωρ, which is equally odd given that ὠνήτωρ is a very rare Byzantine alternative to the far more common ὠνητής.

Both ὄπωροπώλης and ὄπωρώνης are unobjectionable compounds. Regarding ὄπωροπώλης, there is abundant evidence in 5th-century Attic for names of professions that have the second element -πώλης (< πωλέω ‘to sell’), many of which are primarily attested in comedy (there is a list in *DELG* s.v. πωλέω; for a thorough investigation of names for professions with the second elements -πώλης and -πράτης in literary sources, inscriptions, and papyri, from ancient to Byzantine times, see Casarico 1983, Drexhage 1991, Hickey 1996, Drexhage 2002, Ruffing 2002, and Diethart 2005). As for ὄπωρώνης, this form belongs to a group of other compounds with the second element -ώνης (< ὠνόμομαι ‘to buy’), which indicates resellers and state officials who oversee the buying of goods (a list in *DELG* s.v. ὠνόμομαι). A semantic difference between ὄπωροπώλης and ὄπωρώνης, however, is that while the former simply indicates people who sell fruit, the latter more specifically refers to a reseller (see [B.3](#) and [B.4](#); see *DELG* s.v. ὠνόμομαι on compounds with the second element -ώνης: ‘négociants et [...] fonctionnaires acheteurs, que seul l’usage attique distingue, parfois, comme revendeurs, du parallèle en -πωλης’).

Phrynichus observes that ὄπωροπώλης was used by οἱ ἀγοραῖοι, whereas educated people used ὄπωρώνης instead. The point underlying this remark has been deemed elusive by previous scholars, who note that if Phrynichus’ aim had been to say that ὄπωροπώλης was unacceptable, he would have been refuted immediately by innumerable counter-examples (see Lobeck 1820, 206). Indeed, not only is a compound like ὄπωροπώλης inoffensive as far as its formation is concerned (see above), Atticist lexicographers also regularly approve of compounds with the second element -πώλης (see ῥωποπώλης and γεργοπώλης in Ael.Dion. ρ 14 [= Eust. *in Il.* 3.459.29–460.1], βιβλιοπώλης in Phryn. *PS* 52.13, ῥωποπώλης in Phryn. *PS* 107.1–2, βελονοπώλης in Phryn. *Ecl.* 63, γεργοπώλης in Moer. γ 19; many more compounds with a second element -πώλης are recorded by Pollux). To my mind, Phrynichus’ comment that ὄπωροπώλης was used by οἱ ἀγοραῖοι should be taken to mean that ὄπωροπώλης was perceived as unsophisticated Greek and therefore avoided by people who intended to use more distinctive language. In modern terms, the ascription of ὄπωροπώλης to οἱ ἀγοραῖοι is an indication of the sociolinguistic register to which this form belonged, and it does not reflect doubts concerning the correctness of such a compound. This may possibly have something to do with the very profession indicated by this word.

The distribution of ὄπωροπώλης and ὄπωρώνης is extremely uneven. While we are unaware of any attested literary occurrences of ὄπωροπώλης (save for a late and para-literary example, *Philogel.* 238 ὀζόστομος ἀπελθὼν εἰς ὄπωροπώλην ἠρώτα ‘A man with bad breath went to the fruit-seller and asked’), there are several occurrences in papyri (the earliest being [C.2](#), then P.Oxy. 6.980 [= [TM 69486](#), 3rd century], P.Oxy. 8.1133.7 [= [TM 21750](#), 396 CE], P.Oxy. 64.4441. col. vi.10 [= [TM 23666](#), 315–6 CE]) and inscriptions ([SEG 6.435.2](#) [Konya, South-Central Turkey, undated], [MAMA 3.359.2–3](#) [Korykos, undated, Christian]). All these cases are informal texts (reports, private letters), and ὄπωροπώλης is used as the common, unmarked word for a fruit-seller. The only occurrence of ὄπωρώνης in a classical text is in a passage of Demosthenes ([C.1](#)), as recognised by Phrynichus ([A.1](#)) too. After an interval of many centuries, it resurfaces again in a letter of Aristaenetus ([C.3](#)) and in a late antique papyrus of legal content ([C.4](#)). Given the very limited diffusion of ὄπωρώνης, both these occurrences are compatible with the influence of Atticist doctrines, or at least with the use of more elevated language. The re-use of ὄπωρώνης in Aristaenetus ([C.3](#)) is consistent with his programmatic imitation of Attic models and language (see Arnott 1968 and Magrini 1981). The papyrus occurrence of ὄπωρώνης ([C.4](#)) is found in a partnership contract, a slightly more official type of document in which the use of more formal language is not unknown.

## E. Byzantine and Modern Greek commentary

A few documentary occurrences of ὄπωροπώλης are attested in Byzantine texts (*SEG* 47.2023A.4–5 [Gadara, approx. 6th century CE] as ὄπεροπώλης [*lege* ὄπωροπώλης]; SB 18.13599.5 [= [TM 36297](#), provenance unknown, 6th or 7th century CE]). In addition to the masculine, the feminine ὄπωρόπωλης (‘female fruit-seller’) is attested too (see

*LBG* s.v.). While compounds in -πώλης, based on the common verb πωλῶ/ πουλάω 'to sell', are common in Medieval and Modern Greek (see *CGMEMG* vol. 2, 356), the archaic first element makes ὄπωροπώλης and ὄπωροπωλείο 'shop of a fruit-seller' learned terms with no real life in spoken or everyday Modern Greek. As Ioanna Manolessou informs me, they are found only as official appellations, and appear on shop signs only in order to make them sound more 'classy' (the only vernacular word for 'fruit and vegetable seller' being the Turkish μανάβης, with the shop being called μανάβικο).

Unlike ὄπωροπώλης, the Atticising equivalent ὄπωρώνης is unattested in Byzantine, Medieval, and Modern Greek (this is because no verb corresponding to ὠνέομαι survives).

Byzantine sources also attest to the existence of a third compound that is the same type as ὄπωροπώλης and ὄπωρώνης, namely ὄπωροπράτης (*CIIP* vol. 2, no. 978 [Jerusalem, Byzantine times] with the comment *ad loc.* in *SEG* 60.1720, Tz. *Epist.* 57.82.10–4 Leone; the corresponding verb ὄπωροπρατέω is also attested, see Tz. *Epist.* 57.81.17 Leone). Unlike the other two compounds, ὄπωροπράτης is significantly later. Although πράτης and συμπράτης are attested in classical times (πράτης in Hyp. fr. 163 Jensen, συμπράτης in Lys. fr. 507 Carey and Din. fr. 34 Conomis), these forms were not approved by Atticists (see Orus fr. B 138)[= Phot. π 1142]: πρατήρ· οὐχὶ πράτης ὑπὸ τῶν Ἀττικῶν λέγεται 'πρατήρ: This form, not πράτης, is used by Attic authors'. Poll. 7.8 does include πράτης among derivatives from verbs meaning 'to sell', but he calls these forms σκληρά ('harsh'). More generally, all remaining compounds with the second element -πράτης are regularly (much) later than corresponding compounds with the second element -πώλης (see *DELG* s.v. πέρνημι).

## F. Commentary on individual texts and occurrences

N/A

## Bibliography

Arnott, W. G. (1981). 'Some Passages in Aristaenetus'. *BICS* 15, 119–24.

Casarico, L. (1983). 'Repertorio di nomi di mestieri. I sostantivi in -πώλης e -πράτης'. *StudPap* 22, 23–37.

Diethart, J. (2005). '-πώλης und -πράτης un bei weitem kein Ende. Weitere Berufsbezeichnungen aus byzantinischer Zeit'. *MBAH* 24.1, 33–49.

Drexhage, H.-J. (1991). 'Die Komposita mit -πώλης und -πράτης im hellenistischen Ägypten'. *MBAH* 10.2, 1–17.

Drexhage, H.-J. (2002). 'Zum letzten Mal zu den Komposita mit -πώλης?! Einige Bemerkungen zur literarischen Überlieferung'. *MBAH* 21.2, 74–89.

Hickey, T. M. (1996). '*P.Oxy.* X 1323 *descr.*: A Receipt for the Rent of an Orbiopôleion'. *ZPE* 113, 227–9.

Lobeck, C. A. (1820). *Phrynichi Eclogae nominum et verborum Atticorum*. Leipzig.

Magrini, P. (1981). 'Lessico platonico e motivi comici nelle 'Lettere erotiche' di Aristeneto'. *Prometheus* 7, 146–58.

Ruffing, K. (2002). 'Die Berufsbezeichnungen auf -πώλης und -πράτης in der epigraphischen Überlieferung'. *MBAH* 21.1, 16–58.

CITE THIS

Federico Favi, 'ὄπωροπώλης, ὄπωρώνης (Phryn. *Ecl.* 176, Poll. 6.128)', in Olga Tribulato (ed.), *Digital Encyclopedia of Atticism*. With the assistance of E. N. Merisio.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.30687/DEA/2021/01/026>

## ABSTRACT

This article provides a philological and linguistic commentary on the verbal compounds ὄπωροπώλης and ὄπωρώνης discussed in the Atticist lexica Phryn. *Ecl.* 176 and Poll. 6.128.

## KEYWORDS

Compounds

Fruit-sellers

οἱ ἀγοραῖοι

ὄπωροπράτης

πωλέω

ῶνέομαι

## FIRST PUBLISHED ON

01/10/2022

## LAST UPDATE

02/08/2023



Università  
Ca' Foscari  
Venezia

[ve]dph

Venice Centre for  
Digital and Public  
Humanities



Edizioni  
Ca' Foscari

This project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 865817)

© 2023 PURA - Digital Encyclopedia of Atticism - This work is licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 4.0

Hosting by GARR Cloud